



Homelessness Update

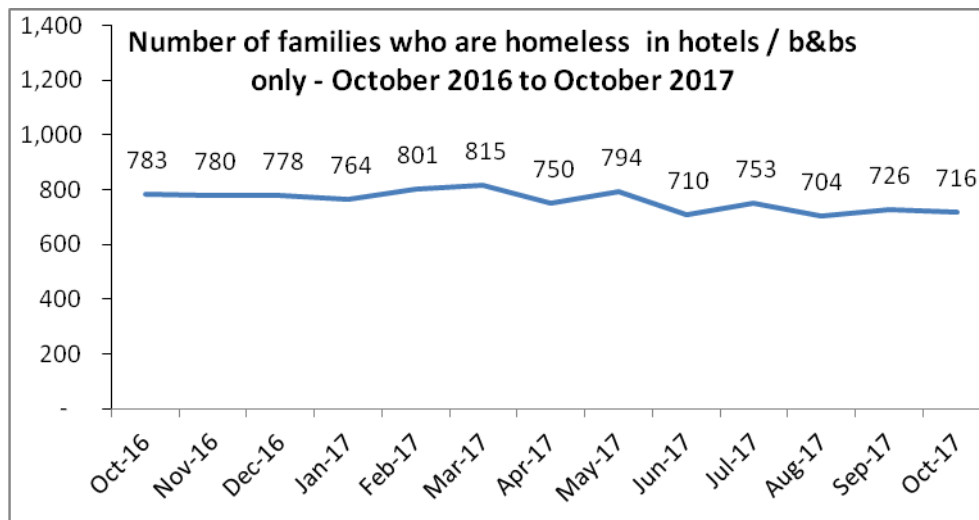
1. Emergency Accommodation Usage in the Dublin Region

In October 2017 a total of 3,536 adults and 2,425 dependents accessed emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region, broken down as follows:

Total Adults (incl. singles & adults in family units)	Total Singles	Families	Dependents
3,536	1,975	1,139	2,425

1.1 Emergency Accommodation Usage - Families with dependents

The chart below illustrates a small downward trend in the number of families in Commercial facilities:



On the last night of the month there were 676 families residing in commercial hotels. During October a total of 88 new families presented to homeless services and entered emergency accommodation. In addition, there were 76 families who were prevented from entering homeless accommodation as they were placed directly into tenancies, through HAP in the main. *The final allocations to our new Rapid Build Homes and completion of new Family Hubs before the end of the year will further reduce the number of families in commercial facilities.*

2. Prevention

The Prevention team continues to engage with families and singles presenting as homeless to explore options to prevent an episode of homelessness taking place. Furthermore work is continuing on securing Homeless Housing Assistance Payment tenancies in the Dublin Region through our Place- Finding Team.

The number of households (adults & families) **prevented** from entering homelessness from January 2017 to October 2017 is set out in the table below.

The number for October includes 76 families that were prevented from entering homelessness by taking up tenancies.

All households (Singles and Families) **prevented** from entering homelessness: Jan – Oct 2017

Month	HAP	LA/AHB/LTA/Housing Agency Acquisition	Private Rented	TOTAL TENANCIES
Jan-17	12	6	0	18
Feb-17	26	16	0	42
Mar-17	158	23	0	181
Apr-17	121	11	0	132
May-17	112	10	0	122
Jun-17	90	11	0	101
Jul-17	111	18	0	129
Aug-17	114	14	1	129
Sep-17	101	9	0	110
Oct-17	105	10	0	115
Total	950	128	1	1079

3. Exiting from homelessness in 2017

In October 2017, 227 tenancies were created for families and singles, exiting them from homelessness.

The breakdown of the number of tenancies created from January to October 2017 is set out in the table below:

All tenancies (Singles and Families): Jan – Oct 2017

Month	HAP	LA/AHB/LTA/Housing Agency Acquisition	Private Rented	TOTAL TENANCIES (households)
Jan-17	34	29	5	68
Feb-17	61	55	4	120
Mar-17	225	96	7	328
Apr-17	182	104	5	291
May-17	144	89	4	237
Jun-17	125	84	7	216
Jul-17	150	105	4	259
Aug-17	164	112	3	279
Sep-17	129	92	2	223
Oct-17	150	75	2	227
Total	1364	841	43	2248

3.1 Exiting from Homelessness in 2017 – Families only

During the month of October there were 150 families who were supported in moving to tenancies. In addition to the 76 families that were prevented from entering homelessness by taking up tenancies mentioned above, there were 74 families who were supported to leave emergency accommodation to take up tenancies in the region.

All tenancies for all families only: Jan - Oct 2017

Month	HAP	LA/AHB/LTA/Housing Agency Acquisition	Private Rented	Allocations to Households
Jan-17	22	19	1	42
Feb-17	40	24		64
Mar-17	144	53		197
Apr-17	127	71		198
May-17	87	71		158
Jun-17	73	51		124
Jul-17	90	73		163
Aug-17	98	66		164
Sep-17	75	71		146
Oct-17	94	56		150
Total	850	555	1	1406

To ensure families who take tenancies are able to sustain those tenancies and avoid returning to homeless services, a range of visiting supports are available including HAIL for persons with mental health issues or SLI which provides general support for a period of six months.

3.2 Social Housing:

To date in 2017 Dublin City Council has housed 267 families (including a total of 400 children) and 160 singles and couples including vulnerable rough sleepers from DCC stock.

4. Reasons for family homelessness June to August 2017

From June to August 2017, a total of 279 families were accommodated in emergency accommodation (EA) in the Dublin Region who had no active or previous record in homeless services i.e. they were 'new' to homelessness.

A review of initial assessments conducted with these families upon their presentation reveals two primary reasons for homelessness; (1) leaving private rented accommodation on foot of a Notice to Quit (NTQ) and (2) leaving family or friends' accommodation due to relationship breakdown or overcrowding. A small number of families reported 'other' reasons for their presentation to homeless services.

- 46% of families stated that the primary reason for their homelessness related to a loss of or inability to secure private rented accommodation
- 49% of families stated the primary reason for their homelessness was due to family circumstances including: overcrowding living situation, relationship breakdown and general family circumstance.
- The remaining 5% were for other reasons including: no income source, victims of anti-social behaviour etc.

Qualitative research that was undertaken in November and December 2015 revealed that a significant number of those presenting from the home of family or friends had previously been accommodated in private rented accommodation but were forced to leave and temporarily shared accommodation while they continued to search for alternative accommodation.

They consequently presented to homeless services as they were unable to source affordable accommodation in the region. The administrative data reviewed will not capture the true progression path from private rented accommodation to homelessness as it captures only the circumstances at time of presentation.

Therefore, the figures presented overstate relationship breakdown and overcrowding and understate numbers presenting from private rented accommodation.

- During the ten month period, May 2016 to February 2017, a total of 677 new families were accommodated in emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region.

- 279 families left private rented accommodation, primarily because notices to quit were issued while family circumstances caused 312 families to present to homeless services.
- These findings are in line with previous analysis conducted in August 2015, Sept 2015 and January 2016.

We will send a copy of this full report to all Members of the SPC this week.

5. Temporary Accommodation for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Work is continuing on the development of family hub facilities which will provide more appropriate and suitable temporary accommodation for families experiencing homelessness.

An update on the facilities in the DCC area is included in the table below.

Location	Detail	Operator	Update
19 / 20 St. Lawrence Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3.	13 Family Rooms	Respond	Opening week of 11 th December 2017
Clonard Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12.	30 Family Spaces	Salvation Army	Opening week of 18 th December
Mater Dei, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3.	50 Family Rooms	Crosscare	Operational with 29 units in use. 23 additional units completed and they will be open before year end.
63 / 64 O'Connell Street, Dublin 1.	45 Family Rooms	Lease agreement with PEA	Will part open by 18 th December
Sarsfield House, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10.	12 Family Rooms	Sons of the Divine Providence	Opening week of 18 th December
Green Castle Parade, Coolock, Dublin 5.	40 Family Rooms	Salvation Army	Works ongoing – to be completed in February.

6. Cold Weather Strategy 2017 and Expansion of Emergency Accommodation

The DRHE is fully cognisant of the potential impact of severe weather to people who are rough sleeping and every possible effort is being made to ensure that there is enough emergency accommodation provision for those that need it and to ensure that no person is forced to sleep rough. Capacity is currently being expanded by 200+ permanent bed spaces with an additional 50 temporary bed spaces available for the winter period (see below table). Due to this expansion, the provision of Emergency Accommodation has been steadily increasing since mid November 2017 and is expected to finalised on the week of the 18th December 2017.

Furthermore the DRHE have additional contingency measures that are triggered during more extreme weather such as the current cold spell. Extreme weather facilities will remain in place at least until the additional permanent places come on stream. 50 extra spaces are available along with a number of communal spaces across a range of existing services that will provide temporary shelter for those that need it and who are willing to accept it.

During the cold weather period the Housing First Intake Team operate from 7 a.m. – 1 a.m. every day, allowing flexibility according to the need presenting on any given night.

Furthermore the DRHE has agreed to fund an increase in the staffing level of the Intake Team during the cold weather period, to enable broader engagement with persons sleeping rough across the entire Dublin Region.

Additional capacity for singles and couples				
Premises	Operator	Type	Capacity	Date
Ellis Quay D 7	PMVT	STA	10	18/12
Little Britain St D 7	Depaul	STA	24	20/12
Kilrainy, Tallaght (SDCC)	PMVT	STA	15	tbc
Clonskeagh D 6	TBC	LTA	13	18/12
Longfields D 2	Dub Simon	STA	40	18/12
Cabra Road D 7	PMVT	STA	60	18/12
Balfe Road D 12	TBC	STA	40	18/12
Total			202*	

In addition 20 temporary beds have been established at the Civil Defence premises at Wolfe Tone Quay. We are also continuing to pursue other possible facilities.

7. Winter Count 2017

The DRHE has been responsible for the delivery of rough sleeping counts in Dublin since 2007. Such a count was carried out in early November.

Of the 184 persons discovered sleeping rough:

- 102 persons had previously accessed homeless services , 11 persons had not accessed such services, and of the remaining 71 there was insufficient details available to ascertain whether they had accessed services;
- 80 persons were Irish nationals, 53 were non-Irish nationals, and the nationality of 51 individuals could not be identified on the night.
- 70% of persons were discovered in Dublin Inner City (North and South), and the remaining 30% were found in the outskirts and in Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire.

8. Engagement with Rough Sleepers:

The Housing First Intake team which is funded by the DRHE works with our Central Placement Service and the HSE funded Safety- Net service to provide accommodation options, street level healthcare and prioritisation for accommodation under the Housing First programme.

The DRHE has increased the staffing in the team to allow them develop a patch approach in order to further build relationships with rough sleepers. The Housing First Team responded to 189 rough sleeper alerts across the Dublin region in November alone.

162 individuals have been allocated Housing First tenancies across the Dublin region and 146 have not re-entered homelessness.

9. Community Development within the DRHE

A specific community liaison person has been assigned to work in the DRHE and plays an integral part in creating communication links across the sector and fostering initiatives for community building and integration.

Key ongoing projects and initiatives include:-

- The pilot art and craft project for children was successfully completed in the Capuchin Day Centre. Consideration is being given to this project becoming permanent.
- Relationship building in the community has resulted in collaboration with North West Partnership, North Side Partnership and Dublin North Bay Housing Crisis Community.
- Research on Health & Nutrition Programme with a view to running a pilot programme in one of the family hubs – awaiting funding approval.
- Community Liaison for local areas regarding Emergency Accommodation facilities.

Eileen Gleeson
Director of Dublin Region Homeless Executive
14th December 2017